

PROJECT #004

WILDLIFE TREATMENTS –HEMLOCK RUN STEWARDSHIP RE-AD

CONIFER RELEASE

SECTION B – SUPPLIES OR SERVICES AND PRICES/COSTS

SCHEDULE OF ITEMS

Item Number	Description	Quantity	Total Price
257-35	Individual Trees and One Clump	73 Trees	
257-35	Brush Piles	Estimate 10 - 20	
258-20	Individual Trees	50 Trees	
258-20	Brush Piles	Estimate 10-20	
451-25	Individual Trees	15 Trees	
451-28	Seven Clumps of Spruce	0.5 Acres	
459-34	One Clump of Spruce	0.5 Acres	
		Item Total:	

Bidders Notes:

1. Show-me Trip – A field trip to representative sites will be conducted, date to be determined
2. Multiple project activities may occur in each site. See the attached, Hemlock Run Stewardship Re-Ad Summary Document – Wildlife and NNIPS, for a list of activities by site.

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SECTION C – DESCRIPTION / SPECIFICATION / WORK STATEMENT

DIVISION 100 - GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

100. Scope of Contract

1. It is the intent of this contract to release conifer trees and create brush piles from the felled material. Competing trees, shrubs, vines and interfering vegetation (using chainsaws, brush cutters or other hand tools) will be removed within 20 feet of selected conifer trees. Conifer trees vary in height from 3 to 4 feet, to approximately 20 feet, and are growing as individual stems or in clumps. This work will occur along or within wildlife openings or pipelines, where conifer trees have been planted. Contract work in some project areas will result in large numbers of stems being felled.
2. Release treatments will occur outside the nesting season of April 1 – June 30.
3. Brush pile construction shall occur concurrently with the conifer release.
4. The Contractor shall furnish all labor, equipment, supervision, transportation, supplies (except those designated as Government-furnished) and incidentals, to perform all work necessary to complete this contract.

See Contract Area Map(s).

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110. Location and Description

All sites are located on the Bradford Ranger District on the Allegheny National Forest.

Item 257-35

This stand is a wildlife opening along FR 114. The spruce/conifer trees to be released are located along the edge of the opening and in groups within the opening. There are approximately 65 individual trees to be released along the edge. A small clump (approximately 9 trees) in the northwest section is being overtaken by bittersweet vine and small saplings, and requires release. Planted stock within the 20' circles should not be removed. Brush piles shall be constructed along the edge of the opening, but location of the brush piles requires prior approval by the COR or Inspector.

This wildlife opening has been plowed and seeded, though the terrain is uneven. Access through the opening can be by truck or ATV.

Item 258-20

This stand is a wildlife opening along FR 114A. There are approximately 50 spruce/conifer trees to be released and they are located along the edge of the opening. Planted stock within the 20' circles should not be removed. Brush piles shall be constructed along the edge of the opening, but location of the brush piles requires prior approval by the COR or Inspector.

This wildlife opening has been plowed and seeded, though the terrain is uneven. Access through the opening can be by truck or ATV.

Item 451-25

This site is an open area along a grassy pipeline, approximately 0.10 miles from the intersection of FR's 266/267. There are approximately 15 spruce trees to be released, varying in height from 5-15 feet tall. If enough slash is available, brush piles may be constructed, but should not be placed upon the pipeline or in any location that will impede travel. Access to the opening is by ATV.

Item 451-28

This stand is a wildlife opening off of FR 267A. Within the opening, are seven clumps of spruce trees, approximately 0.5 acres in total, requiring release. Sapling and small pole-size trees are growing in and adjacent to the clump. Brush piles may be constructed in the opening, but the location of the brush piles requires prior approval by the COR or Inspector. Access to the opening is by ATV.

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Item 459-34

The spruce trees to be released are located within the Timberdoodle Flats Interpretive Site. A clump of spruce trees, approximately 0.5 acres in size, has sapling and small pole-size trees growing in and adjacent to the clump. This clump is located near the Handicap Accessible Loop. Brush piles may be constructed, but should be located away from this trail. Access to the site is by ATV.

120. Meetings

The successful vendor will be contacted prior to individual projects to discuss details of work, location, priorities, etc. The Contracting Officer (CO) and Contracting Officer Representative (COR) are authorized to give verbal orders to the contractor authorizing work to be accomplished.

130. Notification

The Contractor is required to keep the CO/COR or designated Inspector informed of their work schedule and physical location of their work force to permit ready location and timely inspection of accomplished work. The Contractor shall also notify the CO at least monthly of the progress being attained on this project. This notification can be either oral or written.

140. Safety

It is the contractor's responsibility to ensure that the work environment is safe for themselves as well as their employees. If the Contractor feels that a requirement of this contract would place them or their employees in an unsafe environment, then work should stop on that area of work and the contractor should contact the CO/COR immediately. Work on other areas of the contract that the Contractor does not view as unsafe should continue.

Contractor is required to follow all applicable OSHA standards (CFR 29), while working on the job site. In addition, it is recommended the successful contractor utilize appropriate personal protective safety equipment, which includes, but is not limited to, hard hats, ear protection, eye protection, and hand protection while working on project items. Contractor must keep the Government representative posted as to current site work, and must be especially alert to vehicular traffic during field operations.

All sites occur within active oil and gas leases.

The contractor shall **report all accidents** or incidents associated with this contract to the Forest Service representative within 24 hours.

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150. Maintenance for Traffic

Existing roads shall be kept open to all traffic by the contractor while work is progressing. Appropriate warning signs to the public will be displayed.

160. Vehicle Operation

All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV) may be operated to travel to the work sites. ATV's may not be driven on roads open to the public. The operator is subject to fines if found using ATV's in manners other than for the purpose of transporting equipment and operator to the sites. If at any time Forest Service inspections indicate that soil damage is occurring due to the use of ATV's, such use will be suspended and the damage repaired by the contractor.

In addition, it is recommended that the Contractor utilize appropriate personal protective safety equipment/clothing, which may include, but is not limited to, a hard hat, leg protection, eye protection, ear protection, and hand protection, and a DOT approved ATV helmet (if using ATV's or UTV's) while working on this contract. State ATV/OHV permit requirements also apply.

The Forest Service may, during the administration of this contract, direct the Contractor to temporarily halt treatment when: vehicles and/or equipment is causing excessive soil damage such as rutting/soil erosion on roads and/or other work areas until ground condition improve.

170. Access

Sites may be reached by Forest Roads that are accessible by standard pickup truck during the normal working season or by ATV. Sites 451-25, 451-28 and 459-34 are by ATV.

The Government assumes no obligation to plow snow or do special maintenance to keep roads open. An actual visit to the sites prior to bidding is encouraged to view the access to the project areas. The Contractor is responsible for any damage caused by their operations. Some project areas may be on a gated road. A Forest Service key will be provided as necessary to the successful bidder for access.

180. Progression of Work

181. The Contractor is required to inform the COR or Contract Inspector of where and when work will commence.

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182. To avoid damaging sensitive or valuable resources the Contractor is required to halt operations and contact the COR or Contract Inspector and have the issue resolved on site if: the site appears inconsistent with instructions or maps, boundaries are questionable, requirements or restrictions are unreasonable, unreported water courses or wetlands are found on site, or should soils become too wet or rocky to complete the site safely and without damaging the resource

190. Amount of Work

The number of trees to remove varies to a large degree from conifer to conifer and within sites. The amount of felled material will determine the number of brush piles to be constructed. Only by on-the-ground examination can prospective Contractors determine the work entailed in felling and brush pile construction.

DIVISION 200 - TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

200. Individual Tree Release - Spruce/Conifer Tree Release Cutting Criteria

201. Crown and Above

- Fell trees with crowns overtopping, touching or within twenty feet of the crown of each selected spruce/conifer tree or clump of spruce trees.
- Trees of 12.0 inches in diameter or larger will not be felled. The majority of trees to be felled are sapling and small pole-timber size.
- No snags of any size shall be felled, unless the snags present a safety hazard.
- Directional felling should be used to avoid damage to spruce/conifer trees, existing planted stock, fences or nesting structures.
- See attached drawing for reference (Figure 1).

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202. Below Crown

- All shrubs, vines and trees below the crown will be removed with the 20 foot circle.

203. Release treatments will occur outside the nesting season of April 1 – June 30.

210. Brush Piles

211. Slash (cut/felled material) shall be placed in brush piles, at least 20 feet from the base of the conifer trees. Felled material should not lean against or be suspended by an uncut tree. Do not pile cut trees or brush on top of spruce/conifer trees or other planted stock.

212. No brush piles shall be placed in the wildlife opening (grassy area); along the edge, against the tree line is acceptable.

213. The number of brush piles will depend on the amount of felled material per conifer. Where there are groups of conifer, it is anticipated one to several brush piles will be created. Felled material around individual trees may not create enough slash to create a brush pile.

214. Brush piles shall be created using the following criteria:

- Brush piles shall generally be at least 15 feet in wide, 5 to 8 feet tall. At sites where less slash is available, brush piles shall be 4 to 5 feet tall and approximately 10-20 feet wide.
- If not enough material is available to construct a brush pile 4-5 feet tall and 5 feet wide, then felled material shall be dragged (pulled) back into the woods. No felled material shall remain in the wildlife opening.
- Use the largest available materials when constructing the foundation. Logs at least 6-10 inches in diameter and 10 to 15 feet in length are recommended. The larger materials at the bottom keep the smaller limbs off the ground, helping to prevent decay.
- Start construction by laying logs parallel and 6 to 12 inches apart. Next, place a second layer of logs on top of, and perpendicular to the first layer, again, 6 to 12 inches apart. See Fig. 1. Repeat this process one or two more times to complete the final tiers. The intent is to make a pyramid-type structure that has a hollow core.
- A tree stump that is still in place can create an adequate foundation. Place several logs (6 to 10 inches in diameter and 5 to 6 feet long) on top of the stumps so that the logs are radiating out from the center. See attached drawing for reference (Figure 2).

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- Once the foundation is completed, cover with larger branches and limbs, placing the smallest on top. The foundation should be covered with 2 to 4 feet of brush.

215. Brush pile construction shall occur concurrently with the conifer release.

220. Stump Heights

Maximum stump heights shall be **6 inches** above the ground, unless designated in writing by the COR or designated Inspector. Stump sprouts (multiple stems) will be cut as close to the ground as possible. Stumps will be cut in a manner which results in a flat (parallel with the ground) surface. **Angular stump cuts will not be allowed.** Trees shall be completely severed from the stump.

Existing stumps may be left in place.

230. Boundary Trees

Boundary trees are not to be felled. Project area boundary trees are either: marked with orange or white painted three-stripe, or designated with flagging on the trees.

240. Other Marked Trees

Trees marked with marking paint, flagging, enclosed in tree shelters, or attached to fencing shall not be felled.

250. Dead Trees

Only live trees will be cut; all snags encountered will be retained unless they are a hazard to Contractor safety.

260. Protection of Existing Structures

The contractor shall be required to protect existing improvements such as roads (including system, OGM woods or skid trails), pipelines, fences, gates, buildings, water bars, plantings, nesting structures, oil/gas equipment, etc., which are located in the project area. The contractor shall be required to repair or replace such improvements if damaged as a result of their operations. This includes replacing and re-seeding water bars and earthen barricades, roadside ditches, culverts and signs if disturbed as a result of this contract. Any rocks or slash removed for access must be replaced.

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There are active oil leases surrounding these sites.

Cultural Resource Surveys have been conducted and there are no known cultural sites within these areas. If during the execution of this contract the operator unearths a site, work must cease in the general area and the Contract Inspector or COR notified immediately.

270. Project Area Materials Staging

Staging areas large enough for gathering, sorting, piling, etc. of removed materials prior to removal from Forest Service land are permitted in each project area. It is the Contractor's responsibility to notify the Forest Service in writing as to the desired location for each staging area. Locations will be mutually agreed upon prior to the start of operations.

280. Work Area and Equipment Clean Up

281. The contractor shall clean up the work area in and around each contract item prior to the Government accepting the item as complete. This cleanup includes removal of all excess and discarded materials associated with the project, as well as other activities of the contractor.

282. Contractor shall ensure that prior to moving any equipment to a work site, between work sites, and from the Allegheny National Forest, all planting equipment such as but not limited to: augers, shovels, and planting bars are free of soil, seeds, vegetative matter or other debris that could contain or hold seeds. Off-road equipment used for transport of materials such as ATV's and trailers shall also be free of soil, seeds, vegetative matter or other debris that could contain or hold seeds. Equipment shall be considered free of soil, seed and other such debris when a visual inspection does not disclose such material. Disassembly of equipment components or specialized inspection tools is not required. Cleaning of equipment may entail brushing or hosing off. The use of detergents or other cleaning agents are not to be used unless they are used at a car wash or other facility equipped for water catchment and treatment. Equipment is not to be cleaned in streams, ditches or other waterways. If the contractor desires to clean the equipment on National Forest land, the contractor and Forest Service shall agree on locations for the cleaning.

290. Time of Performance

291. Release treatments will occur outside the nesting season of April 1 – June 30.

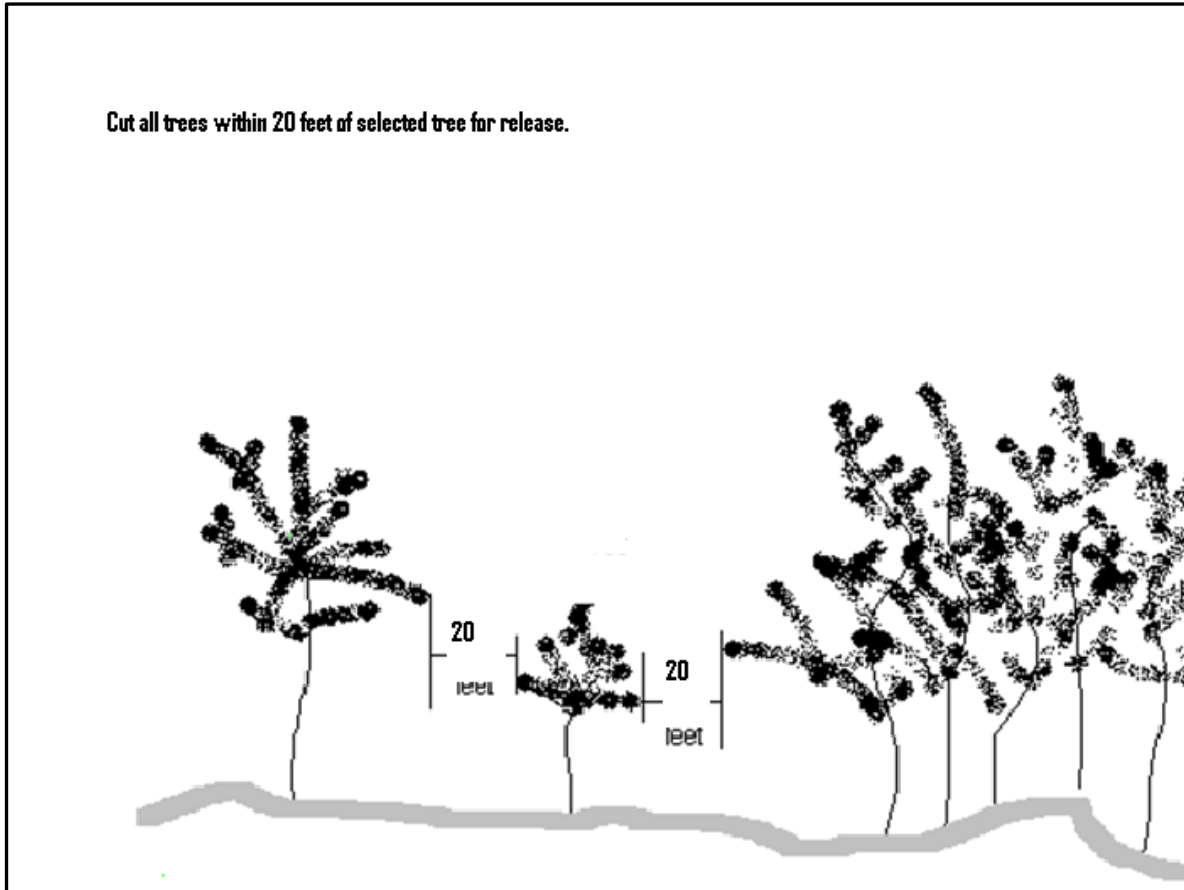
292. Brush pile construction shall occur concurrently with the conifer release.

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Figure 1. Conifer Release



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Figure 2. Brush Piles

